

Today, Rep. Pete Stark announced the passage of H. Con. Res. 110, honoring the National Children's Memorial Flag day. Rep. Stark co-sponsored the resolution with Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV). The resolution passed in the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

"We have lost far too many children to violent, preventable deaths," Rep. Stark said. "This resolution honors the children we have lost, but it also reminds us that action is needed in order to prevent future violence," Rep. Stark said.

H. Con. Res. 110 supports commemorating the fourth Friday of April as National Children's Memorial Flag Day. In addition, the resolution encourages national, state and local agencies as well as private organizations to fly the Children's Memorial Flag in remembrance of children lost to violence. The resolution seeks to raise public awareness to the continuing problem of violence against children.

In 1996, Alameda County adopted the Children's Memorial Flag Project and National Children's Memorial Day. The California Assembly also declared the fourth Friday in April as a day to remember children lost to violence. According to the Child Welfare League of America, ten children die each day as a result of gun violence. In fact, more children lose their lives to criminal violence in the United States than in any of the other 26 industrialized nations of the world.

"This resolution is particularly timely in the wake of the school shootings at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, California and Santana High School in Santee, California," Rep. Stark remarked. "I hope that this resolution is just one step to address the nationwide problem of youth violence and that the Congress will work for long term solutions to prevent future violence from harming our kids."

Alameda County and the East Bay Regional Park District will honor the memory of children who have died in Alameda County and nationwide in a ceremony on Friday, April 27, 2001. The ceremony will take place at the Alameda County Administrative Building at 12:00 noon. For more information on the ceremony, contact Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele at (510) 272-6692.

"I commend Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele for her leadership and tireless efforts in promoting National Children's Memorial Day. Without her years of hard work on this issue,

Congress would not have passed this resolution today," Rep. Stark said.